

Executive Director Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate

Jamie Spencer



Summary:

- Celebrating the CKW Staff Excellence Awards 2026
- Farewell Brett Parnell
- Race to Sydney - Eat Walk Engage team initiative
- Books for Babies initiative
- Accreditation readiness - how we work, every day
- New starter videos - Metro North main campuses and first day
- Future Metro North consultation

[Message feedback](#)



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Dear CKW team,

It's been another busy week at CKW, with lots of exciting news to share.

We celebrated the 2026 CKW Staff Excellence Awards - congratulations to our winners and highly commended staff, and thank you for your outstanding contributions to CKW and Metro North. In bittersweet news, we say farewell to Brett Parnell, Director of Finance, who officially retires after today, following 33 years of public service, including 13 years with CKW!

Our frontline teams continue going the extra mile (quite literally) for their communities, through the 'Race for Sydney' and 'Books for Babies' initiatives, and the Clinical Governance Unit shares some top tips for being accreditation-ready.

CKW was also pleased to host the Metro North Operational Leadership Team and Senior Executive Team meetings on Wednesday. Thanks to all who came out on site this week, including Bernard Curran (Metro North Board Chair), Nick Steele (Metro North Health Service Chief Executive) and Ian Wright (Chief Finance and Corporate Officer). Some good discussion was had about residential care and out of hospital care.

Celebrating the CKW Staff Excellence Awards 2026

Congratulations to our 2026 CKW Staff Excellence Award winners who were recognised for standout achievements across 13 categories this Wednesday at Caboolture Hospital.

These annual awards recognise clinical, non-clinical and operational individuals and teams who model the Metro North values and make a difference at work or in the community.

With the amazing number of nominations, CKW are sure to have a strong representation at

the 2026 Metro North Staff Excellence Awards in November. Read more and buy tickets [here](#) (tickets on sale from next Monday 21 September)!

Special thanks to **Parker Michaels** and **Kylie Martin** for coordinating this year's CKW Awards nominations and celebration event. Parker and Kylie put in a lot of time and effort and did a fantastic job. Thank you also to **Kyarni Hewett** for serving as MC and contributing to the success of the event.

A shout out to the CKW event sponsor, **QSuper**.

A complete list of award recipients and categories are [here](#) in the Newsroom story.

All event photos will be published on the Facebook [Metro North Health Staff Community Page](#).



Pictured above (left-right): Jamie Spencer, ED CKW Directorate; 2026 CKW Staff Excellence Awards winners; Bernard Curran, Metro North Board Chair; Nick Steele, Metro North Health Service Chief Executive.

Farewell Brett Parnell

Brett Parnell, Director of Finance is retiring after an outstanding 33-year career in the public service, including 13 years leading CKW's Finance team.

Brett leaves a lasting legacy of professionalism, integrity and strategic leadership.

We thank Brett for his significant contribution to the organisation and wish him every success and happiness in his retirement.



Race to Sydney - Eat Walk Engage team initiative

The Eat Walk Engage team recently hosted the third annual Race to Sydney.

The Race to Sydney is a friendly competition encouraging patients across CKW wards to improve mobility by walking or wheeling laps of their ward, helping prevent functional decline and maintain independence during hospital stays.

Here are the results (after a close race and strong performance by all!):

- **1st place: Ward 3B**, reaching the virtual Sydney finish line on 12 September
- **2nd place: Kilcoy Hospital**, finishing on 14 September
- **3rd place: Ward 4D.**

The Race to Sydney demonstrates the importance of early and regular mobility in supporting patient wellbeing, reinforcing the message that every step counts toward better health outcomes and recovery.

Books for Babies initiative

The Caboolture Hospital Neonatal Unit took part in the Books for Babies initiative again this year, held annually on 8 September (International Literacy Day).

The initiative involves gifting young children's picture books to babies born on or around 8 September. Some information is also given to parents, carers and families to help them navigate parenting and caring.

Books for Babies is an initiative of The Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA).





Accreditation readiness - how we work, every day

As we prepare for our upcoming short-notice assessment against the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, the Clinical Governance team thanks all staff for their ongoing commitment to providing safe, high-quality care to our patients and our community.

It's a timely reminder that accreditation readiness isn't just about preparing for the assessors to come for the 'big event', it's about ensuring that we have accreditation readiness embedded in our 'business as usual'. This reassures our community that on any given day we are prepared to demonstrate our

compliance but also showcase the great work that is being done across our directorate.

Simple tips to be accreditation-ready:

- Is your mandatory and requisite training up to date?
- Do you need to update your PDP with your line manager?
- Do you know how to access policies and procedures on QHEPS?
- Are you complying with infection control best practice including bare below the elbows and hand hygiene?
- Are your areas clean and free of clutter?
- Is there any test and tagging that needs updating in your area?
- Do you know how to report or escalate risks or concerns?
- Do you know the number to call for a MET call?

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming accreditation, please reach out to the Clinical Governance Unit and keep an eye out for key updates in the monthly Safety & Quality newsletter, the 'Quality Compass'.

Pictured above: World Patient Safety Day stall at Caboolture Hospital.

New starter videos - Metro North main campuses and first day

Four videos introducing the main Metro North campuses for new starters are now published on the Metro North website (links below):

- [Caboolture Hospital](#)
- [Herston Precinct](#)
- [The Prince Charles Hospital](#)
- [Redcliffe Hospital](#).



Metro North Communications created these videos to familiarise new employees with their facilities and explain how to get there and what to expect on their first day.

The Recruitment team is already sharing a link to the videos in the welcome email sent to new employees, but feel free to share them with your teams and anyone involved in onboarding new starters.

Videos for other Metro North campuses are planned to be created and made available in the future - watch this space!

Future Metro North consultation



This week, Metro North ED Strategy and Planning Jodi Hallas presented on Future Metro North to the CKW Clinical Council.

Future Metro North: Reimagining Healthcare 2027-2042 is the 15-year strategic Roadmap to guide the future of healthcare delivery, inform investment decisions and drive service improvement across our service and beyond.

Metro North are now seeking feedback on the *Future Metro North* draft from staff, consumers, community members and partners.

Broad participation in the consultation will help ensure *Future Metro North* reflects the experiences, priorities and aspirations of the people we serve and will provide a strong foundation for the future.

You can find the draft report and survey link on the *Future Metro North* [extranet page](#).

There will be numerous opportunities for staff to provide feedback, including the survey, targeted consultation sessions and a Chief Executive-led vidcast.

Consultation is open until **Tuesday 6 October 2026**.

If you have any questions about the roadmap, please talk to your local Clinical Council representative.

Culture and connection

In a previous edition, Cultural Capability Officer Janita Adams introduced the concept of seasonal calendars, where unlike the four seasons of Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have up to 13 seasonal changes that guide how they manage country, winds, seas/waters, lands and stars.

This week, Janita shares more about the winds and the the Kabi Kabi people:

"The winds also play an important part in these changes. For instance, [they] when it's time to do a cultural burn, or fire stick dreaming practices, to keep country healthy and strong to sustain its animals, trees, plants and people."

"For the Kabi Kabi people...when certain plants and trees are about to [flower] or are flowering, you have a window of time to harvest seeds, nuts and other edible items - these practices sustained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through thousands of years and kept everyone fed, happy and healthy."

Do you have something to share in Culture and Connection? [Let me know!](#)

SEPTEMBER

'26

WHAT'S ON

- ★ PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS WEEK
- ★ WORLD ALZHEIMER'S MONTH
- ★ CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 6-12 SEPT
- ★ WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY 10 SEPT
- ★ RU OK? DAY 10 SEPT
- ★ WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY 17 SEPT
- ★ DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK 21-27 SEPT
- ★ WORLD HEART DAY 29 SEPT

CKW EVENTS

- CKW SET FORUM 3 SEPT
- COFFEE WITH COUNCIL 9 SEPT
- GRAND ROUNDS R U OK DAY? 10 SEPT
- CKW STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS 16 SEPT
- CKW STAFF FORUM 22 SEPT
- METRO NORTH BOARD MEETING 29 SEPT
- FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

Question of the week

Approximately how many staff work across the CKW Directorate?

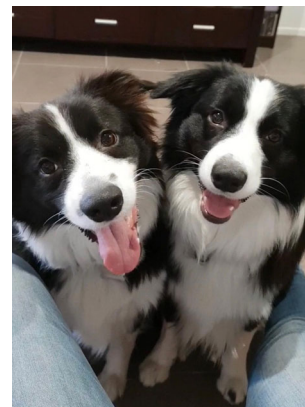
Pets of the Week

This week's pet belongs to Bianca Rideout, Support Officer to Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Name and Age: Hunter (Left, 10 years old) and Baxter (Right, 9 years old).

Breed: Border Collies

About them: Hunter & Baxter are brothers from the same mum and dad, just a different litter. Hunter is extremely smart, obedient and loves to snuggle and play ball. He dislikes getting dirty and stays out of trouble at all costs. Baxter is a wild child, free-spirited, and thinks he is the keeper of the 9 chickens we have. Unlike his brother, he loves dirt and will stop at no cost to submerge his body in it before coming inside. He dislikes Thunder and fireworks.



Kind regards,
Jamie

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

2 SEPTEMBER - HAWKERS EATS

9 SEPTEMBER - FRITZ'S WIENERS

16 SEPTEMBER - THE PIZZA VIKING

23 SEPTEMBER - IT'S A WING THING

30 SEPTEMBER - NONNA MAKES



5-8PM MAIN ENTRANCE, CABOOLTURE HOSPITAL

Metro North Health



We uphold our commitment to health equity through our Values in Action
Respect | Integrity | Compassion | High Performance | Teamwork



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Metro North Health's vision

Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services.



**Queensland
Government**

If you have received this email and do not work for Metro North please follow this link to be removed from the mailing list.

[Email us](#)